



Tuesday, June 30, 2020

The Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA) and the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) met on June 12, 2020. We discussed our shared concern of discrepancies existing in the return-to-practice guidance for dentists and dental hygienists. We all agree, as we get back to treating patients/clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, there can be no confusion among members of the dental team about what constitutes a safe workplace or safe patient/client care.

The provision of oral healthcare will be impacted throughout all phases of this pandemic, and we understand the importance of making changes to the way we treat our patients/clients to ensure everyone's safety. This means working closely together on the frontlines to ensure safe, sustainable access to care for our patients/clients and a safe, respectful workplace for everyone in the dental office. To do so, we need clear guidance we can all adhere to. We also agreed to continue to bring our members' questions and concerns to the regulators. Neither ODHA, nor ODA set the rules for the oral healthcare team, but we are committed to a safe and sustainable return to practice during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ODHA and ODA have agreed to maintain a dialogue and work together to ensure our members' concerns are heard, and to help dentists and dental hygienists communicate openly in the dental practice.